

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for constructing a strip foundation in a trench with a longitudinal socket groove intended for receiving and supporting walls assembled of load-bearing panels, said method comprising the steps of

forming a plurality of pre-cast socket elements to be temporarily supported and hanged over spaced above a bottom of the trench, around a perimeter of a building layout,

adjusting and levelling the elements in the trench by holding/levelling devices positioned outside of the trench until being finally adjusted and levelled, and

subsequently pouring fresh concrete in the bottom of the trench to form a strip footing into which only a portion of said elements are incorporated through a downwardly projecting reinforcement of the elements.

2. (Currently Amended) A pre-cast socket comprising

a part of a strip foundation having a longitudinal socket groove, said socket groove being U-shaped having a bottom wall and two sidewalls projecting upwardly from said bottom wall, with said two sidewalls each having two pairs of round inner

holes and two pairs of rectangular outer holes spaced above the bottom wall serving for re-rigging from crane slings to holding/levelling devices,

a planar protruding reinforcement mesh connected to and spaced from said bottom wall.

3. (Currently Amended) A holding/levelling device comprising

a main truss-girder with extendable ends, ~~said extendable ends leaning against~~ saddles located on top of a pair of adjustable supports including hydraulic lifting presses placed within a steel housing, an enlarged basis supporting the housing, enabling the housing to slide in two horizontal perpendicular directions on a support pad,

said main truss-girder being located on top of said saddles, and

a rectangular cross-shaped horizontal bolt extending below the truss-girder and in a same general direction as the truss-girder and hanged upon two vertical rods pulled extending vertically through respective holes of the main truss-girder and spaced symmetrically about a midspan of the main truss-girder, and

an adjustable length of both vertical rods between a top of the truss-girder and the horizontal bolt being fixed by two nuts,

said hydraulic lifting presses moving said mesh truss-girder to level said
horizontal bolt above a bottom of a trench.